

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 13 JULY 2017

PRESENT:- The Worshipful The Mayor in the Chair; Councillors Junab Ali, Steve Allsopp, Abdul Amin, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Alan Bishop, Emma Bushell, Matthew Courtliff, Wayne Crabbe, Malcolm Davies, Mark Dempsey, Paul Dixon, Oliver Donachie, Toby Elliott, Claire Ellis, Steph Exell, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Brian Ford, Mary Friend, Jim Grant, John Haines, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Fay Howard, Mary Martin, Nick Martin, Cathy Martyn, Gemma McCracken, Jane Milner-Barry, Des Moffatt, Derique Montaut, Teresa Page, Stan Pajak, Barbara Parry, Kevin Parry, Garry Perkins, David Renard, James Robbins, Eric Shaw, Carol Shelley, Gary Sumner, Timothy Swinyard, Caryl Sydney-Smith, Vera Tomlinson, Chris Watts, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Steve Weisinger, David Wood and Robert Wright.

13. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Colin Lovell, Kevin Small, Keith Williams and Julie Wright.

14. Communications

The Chief Executive reported that no communications had been received.

15. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2017 be confirmed and signed.

16. Declarations of Interest

The Mayor reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting.

Councillors Toby Elliott and Mathew Courtliff made non-prejudicial and personal declarations of interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 6(2) (Draft Airports National Policy Statement) on the grounds of their employment by Network Rail.

The Worshipful The Mayor made a non-prejudicial and personal declarations of interest in respect of Agenda Item 9 on the grounds that she had been involved in the preparation of the Highworth Town Council input into the Highworth Neighbourhood Plan.

17. Public Question Time

No Public Questions were asked.

18.

Minutes for Confirmation

(1) Councillor Toby Elliott moved and Councillor David Renard seconded that Minute 122 (2016/17) of the Cabinet (Swindon Transport Plan Implementation Plan 2017/18) be confirmed and adopted.

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

(2) Councillor David Renard moved and Councillor Russell Holland seconded that Minute 12 of the Cabinet (Councillors' Allowances 2018/19 – Recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel) be confirmed and adopted.

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

(3) Councillor Garry Perkins moved and Councillor David Renard seconded that Minute 123 of the Cabinet (2016/17) (Draft Airports National Policy Statement) be noted.

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

(4) Councillor Mary Martin moved and Councillor David Renard seconded That Minute 126 of the Cabinet (2016/17) (Swindon Libraries – Children's Library Membership) be noted.

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

(5) Councillor Mary Martin moved and Councillor David Renard seconded that Minute 9 of the Cabinet (Swindon Dial A Ride Service Options) be noted.

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

(Councillors Toby Elliott and Mathew Courtliff made non-prejudicial and personal declarations of interest in respect of (3) above on the grounds of their employment by Network Rail.)

19.

Motion - Grenfell Tower

Councillor David Renard moved and Councillor Jim Grant seconded:

"This Council notes:

1. With sadness, the loss of life at Grenfell Tower, London.
2. The response by this Council's Officers to communicate with and reassure tenants.
3. The benefits of sprinkler systems in tall buildings

This Council invites the Mayor to write to the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea expressing Council's condolences.

This Council requests that the Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety, in consultation with the other key services, particularly the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire

Service, bring a report to Cabinet as soon as possible about how the installation of sprinklers and other fire safety measures could be incorporated into the refurbishment programme for Council-owned tall multi-storey residential buildings”.

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

20. Motion - Kimmerfields Development

Councillor Jane Milner-Barry moved and Councillor Mark Dempsey seconded:

“This Council:

- Expresses its strong concerns that there has been no private sector investment in the Kimmerfields development, since outline planning permission was agreed in 2012.
- Notes that the targets set in the original Muse Development Agreement have not been met.
- Notes that Swindon’s two MPs have both criticised the lack of progress with the Kimmerfields development.
- Requests the Cabinet Member for Regeneration to bring a report to Cabinet detailing how the Council can terminate its Development Agreement with Muse Development Ltd.

Councillor Garry Perkins moved and Councillor David Renard seconded that the motion be amended to read:

“That this motion be referred to the 6th September 2017 Cabinet meeting and the outcome debated at Council on 28th September 2017.”

The amendment was put to the vote and declared carried becoming the Substantive Motion.

The Substantive Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

21. Motion - UK Broadband Network

Councillor Chris Watts moved and Councillor Des Moffatt seconded:

“This Council:

- Welcomes the investment made by BT rolling out fibre broadband to the Northern Sector area.
- Believes the BT fibre broadband rollout makes redundant any need for a taxpayer-backed UK Broadband Network’s (UKBN) broadband rollout.

- Notes the Conservative MP for North Swindon has criticised the Council for financially backing UKBN's broadband network in North Swindon.
- Notes that UKBN has not started to rollout Superfast Broadband in the North Swindon area.
- Urges Cabinet to review the Council's agreement with UKBN and requests the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Sustainability to bring a report to Cabinet detailing whether and how the Council can remove the Northern Sector area from the UKBN Broadband rollout, saving money to the Swindon taxpayer."

Councillor Oliver Donachie moved and Councillor Gary Sumner seconded that the motion be amended to read:

"This Council:

Notes that:

- a) A modern, vibrant economy needs access to fast broadband, and
- b) before the Council signed the contract with UK Broadband Networks Ltd there was no direct interest in expanding fibre networks across Swindon from the private sector.

Welcomes:

- a) That hundreds of residents now have access to faster broadband;
- b) That decisive action from the Conservative Council has stimulated the market;
- c) The investment made by Virgin and BT in rolling out fibre broadband thanks to the support of local residents, Conservative Councillors and Conservative MPs over many years; and
- d) The exciting news that Swindon is a test bed for both G-Fast and 5G broadband.

Council asks the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability to bring a report to Cabinet:

- (a) Setting out the costs and benefits so far, particularly in rural areas, and the additional activity by the private sector to provide broadband since the Council's decision; and
- (b) Detailing how Swindon can make progress in securing the ultrafast broadband so that local companies remain as competitive as those in rival locations."

The amendment was put to the vote and declared carried becoming the Substantive Motion.

The Substantive Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

22. South Marston Village Neighbourhood Plan

The Council received a joint report of the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability and Corporate Director, Economy, Regeneration and Skills, setting out the recommendations of the Examiner's report of the South Marston Village Neighbourhood Plan and seeking the Council's approval for approval of the plan.

Resolved – (1) That the South Marston Village Neighbourhood Plan "Decision Statement" set out as an appendix to the joint report of the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability and Corporate Director, Economy, Regeneration and Skills, be approved.

(2) That subject to the Director of Law and Democratic Services being satisfied as to the carrying out by South Marston Parish Council and Swindon Borough Council of the modifications recommended by the Examiner, the Director of Law and Democratic Services be authorised to undertake a referendum on the South Marston Village Neighbourhood Plan in South Marston Parish, in accordance with the regulations set out in The Neighbourhood Planning (Referendum) Regulations 2012 as soon as is practically possible.

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

23. Adoption of Highworth Neighbourhood Plan

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability submitted a report setting out the result of the referendum of the Highworth Neighbourhood Plan and seeking Council's approval for its adoption.

Resolved – That the Highworth Neighbourhood Plan be formally adopted and made as part of the statutory Development Plan for the Borough.

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

(The Worshipful The Mayor made a non-prejudicial and personal declarations of interest in respect of this item on the grounds that she had been involved in the preparation of the Highworth Town Council input into the Highworth Neighbourhood Plan.)

24. Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies

Councillor David Renard moved and Councillor Russell Holland second that:

"Councillor Caryl Sydney-Smith replace Councillor Dale Heenan as a Conservative Group representative serving on the Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel."

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

25. Minutes of Cabinet and Decisions Delegated to Cabinet Members

The Council considered (a) the minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 26th April and 14th June 2017, and (b) questions to the Cabinet Members regarding their portfolio responsibilities and answers received.

26.

Minutes of other Council Bodies

The Council (a) received the minutes set out in the “Minutes of Other Council Bodies” circulated with the Agenda, and (b) considered questions to Chairs relating to the work of their Committees and other bodies and answers received.

27.

Councillors Question Time

The Director of Law and Democratic Services reported that Standing Order 15 Questions had been received from Councillor Steve Allsopp, Fay Howard and Bob Wright.

Councillor Steve Allsopp asked a supplementary question in relation to the communication with the public should there be delays in the collection of green waste. The Cabinet Member for Communities and Place responded at the meeting.

Councillor Steve Allsopp asked a supplementary question regarding road maintenance. The Cabinet Member for Communities and Place responded at the meeting.

Councillor Fay Howard asked a supplementary question regarding assistance available to families with special needs. The Cabinet Member for Children’s Services and School Attainment responded at the meeting.

Councillor Bob Wright asked supplementary questions in respect of (a) the classification of apprenticeships, (b) the use of apprenticeship schemes, (c) the number of apprentices retained by the Council, and (d) the number of care leavers in apprenticeship schemes. The Leader of the Council, on behalf of the cabinet Member for Corporate Services responded to questions (a) and (b) at the meeting and indicated written responses would be provided in respect of questions (c) and (d).